

The Throne

News and Services from Swem Library at The College of William & Mary • April/May 2010

****We have lots to tell you in this issue; but your editors, unlike your professors, don't give tests.**

LESS TIME TO STUDY FOR EXAMS...

As though you don't face enough problems with the approach of final exams, here comes one more. The magnitude 8.8 earthquake that struck Chile on February 27 also shifted the Earth's axis. NASA scientist Richard Gross said the quake moved the axis by 2.7 milliarseconds (about 3 inches) and shortened the day by about 1.26 microseconds.



Each day from now on, including the time for finals preparation, has been shortened by 1.26 microseconds. So, get used to less sleep and more Red Bull.

WE CARRY OUR ENVIRONMENT IN US

Never heard of hydrargyrum? It's actually the very familiar metallic element commonly known as mercury. Plan to attend The **International Mercury EXPO** April 22-25 – four days devoted to exhibits, lectures, films, workshops, and field trips focused on this liquid metal.

For all the events, including a free film series at the Kimball, visit the EXPO's website (<http://mercury.wm.edu>). In the meantime, check out those cool transparent people with the blue-dot heads residing in the lobby asking "What's your DOT?"

For music lovers, stop by **Unplugged @ Swem: Earth Day Slam and Jam**, an open-mic event on April 22 (9-midnight) to celebrate and raise environmental awareness on campus.

Not enough? April 24th will see lots of earth-friendly activities at the Sadler Center.



...BUT MORE PLACES TO DO IT

Thanks to funds from the Student Assembly, Swem will once again be open for some all nighters (check posters in the lobby for dates). W&M has some well-equipped students who arrive with sleeping bags, pillows, tents, and often the entire contents of a grocery store, thus converting our study



carrels into shanty towns. There are 23 group studies in the library, all on a first-come, first-served basis, and thousands of you. Please be sensible and considerate and make your mom proud. Group studies are intended for groups larger than one and should not be used by any group for more than 3 hours. And by all means, don't leave your things unattended!

NUGGETS FROM THE UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES; OR, TIMES OF YORE

- In 1837 students had to study at least seven hours a day outside of regular lecture hours.
- In the 1850s, the library was open only one day a week for two hours, and the librarian was the one who decided which day and which two hours they were.
- In the 1880s, if a student missed an exam and he was not sick, he would no longer be a student at the College.



ALL HAPPY ENDINGS ARE BEGINNINGS AS WELL

An Irish proverb applicable to events at Swem Library this spring! It's time to say good-bye to Dean of Libraries Connie McCarthy who happily retires in June. Since 1997 she has been the *materfamilias* of Swem Library. While many of her accomplishments were invisible to Throne readers, our dean is responsible for the comfortable, convenient, caring library you know and love. Since the senior class has named Dean McCarthy a faculty marshall, many of you will see her at Commencement. May the road rise up to meet you, Connie.

